

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

Muriel Bowser  
Mayor



Chris T. Geldart  
Director

September 22, 2016

Via FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System

Commissioner Thomas Wheeler  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

On behalf of the District of Columbia's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA), I am writing to you regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) upcoming vote on the rules governing the Wireless Emergency Alert System (WEAS). In the wake of the bombings in New York and New Jersey, as well as the heightened risk of similar events occurring in the District, it is HSEMA's position that WEAS can become more effective at enhancing public safety based upon the outcome of the FCC's vote. Specifically, the District implores you to consider the following critical items that are under your consideration for the final rule:

1. **Embedded References and Pictures.** Wireless Emergency Alerts should be capable of sending messages that include pictures, links, and telephone numbers;
2. **Device-Assisted Geotargeting.** Wireless Emergency Alerts should be capable of being sent to a granular area using technology that already exists in each handset;
3. **Multilingual Capabilities.** Wireless Emergency Alerts should be able to be sent in multiple languages;
4. **"Many-to-One" Capability.** Wireless Emergency Alerts should be able to poll recipients for feedback that can be used to improve response (e.g., damage assessments, requests for assistance, etc.)

Incorporating these capabilities into the final rule should serve to enhance public safety and allow us all to better communicate with our communities. I appreciate your time and consideration. Please contact me directly with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Chris T. Geldart  
Director

